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**USTR ANNOUNCES ALLOCATION OF THE RAW CANE SUGAR, REFINED SUGAR
AND SUGAR CONTAINING PRODUCTS TARIFF-RATE QUOTAS FOR 1998-99**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today announced the country-by-country allocations of 1,164,937 metric tons (1,284,123 short tons) of the raw cane sugar tariff rate quota for Fiscal Year 1999. These allocations are based on the countries' historical trade to the United States.

The 1,164,937 metric tons for raw cane sugar are being allocated to the following countries in metric tons, raw value:

| <u>Country</u> | <u>FY1999 Allocation</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | 46,581 |
| Australia | 89,912 |
| Barbados | 7,583 |
| Belize | 11,916 |
| Bolivia | 8,666 |
| Brazil | 157,076 |
| Colombia | 25,999 |
| Congo | 7,258 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 7,258 |
| Costa Rica | 16,249 |
| Dominican Republic | 190,657 |
| Ecuador | 11,916 |
| El Salvador | 28,165 |
| Fiji | 9,750 |
| Gabon | 7,258 |
| Guatemala | 51,997 |
| Guyana | 12,999 |
| Haiti | 7,258 |
| Honduras | 10,833 |
| India | 8,666 |
| Jamaica | 11,916 |

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|-------------------|---------------|
| Madagascar | 7,258 |
| Malawi | 10,833 |
| Mauritius | 12,999 |
| Mexico | 25,000 |
| Mozambique | 14,083 |
| Nicaragua | 22,749 |
| Panama | 31,415 |
| Papua New Guinea | 7,258 |
| Paraguay | 7,258 |
| Peru | 44,415 |
| Philippines | 146,243 |
| South Africa | 24,915 |
| St. Kitts & Nevis | 7,258 |
| Swaziland | 17,332 |
| Taiwan | 12,999 |
| Thailand | 15,166 |
| Trinidad-Tobago | 7,583 |
| Uruguay | 7,258 |
| Zimbabwe | <u>12,999</u> |
| Total | 1,164,937 |

This allocation includes the following minimum-quota countries: Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Haiti, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Uruguay.

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky also announced that 25,000 metric tons (27,558 short tons) of the 50,000 metric tons (55,116 short tons) for refined sugar will be allocated to Mexico in order to fulfill obligations pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). As a result of an agreement reached with Canada, 10,300 metric tons (11,354 short tons) of refined sugar and 59,250 metric tons (65,312 short tons) of the tariff-rate quota for certain sugar-containing products maintained under "Additional U.S. Note 8 to chapter 17 to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States" will be allocated to Canada. Separately, an additional 2,954 metric tons (3,256 short tons) of refined sugar will be allocated to Mexico. The remainder of the refined sugar tariff-rate quota will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, including the 4,656 metric tons (5,132 short tons) reserved for specialty sugars. The remainder of the sugar-containing products tariff-rate quota will be available for other countries.

The 25,000 metric tons, raw value, of refined sugar allocated to Mexico pursuant to the NAFTA are subject to the condition that the total imports of raw and refined sugar from Mexico, combined, is not to exceed 25,000 metric tons raw value. The allocations of the raw and refined sugar tariff-rate quotas to countries that are net importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications. Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons

